

マケドニア王家とオリュンピア祭

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The Macedonian Royal House and the Olympic Games

Noriko SAWADA

Philip II, who took Macedonia from a weak, divided state to a hegemon of the Greek world in under 20 years from his accession, won several equestrian victories in the Olympic games, the contests of the Hellenes. He also commissioned the building of his own lavish monument, called the Philippeion, in the heart of the sanctuary at Olympia after the battle of Chaeronea in 338 B.C. Philip II is known to have shown an active interest in Olympia and the Olympic games throughout his reign.

Macedonian interest in the Olympic games is known as early as the reign of Alexander I (c.497-c.454), a distant ancestor of Philip II. Herodotus offers an interesting tale that Alexander I, proving himself to be an Argive, competed at Olympia in the *stadion* race (Hdt. 5.22). Much has been written about the tale, with considerable attention focused on the historical accuracy of the king's participation in the Olympic games. This paper examines the much-disputed story of Herodotus regarding Alexander I's participation in Olympia, which is considered as a precedent for the impressive victories of Philip II, and provides a glimpse of the background of Philip II's interest in Olympia that was evident throughout his reign. We explore the questions pertaining to the validity of Herodotus' story and to the date of Alexander I's participation.

In conclusion, we should believe Herodotus' story about Alexander I's participation, which occurred probably around the turn of the century, shortly before the outbreak of the Persian War. From the latter half of the 6th century B.C., the Macedonian royal house wished to integrate themselves into the Greek community, and by actively adopting the Greek hero myths, established their own identity within the Greek world. It was at the time of Alexander I's participation in the Olympic games that the newly defined identity of the royal house was clearly shown to the Greeks for the first time. Macedonian connection with Olympia became the tradition of the royal house

from that time on, passing to King Archelaus (r. 413-399), and then to Philip II.